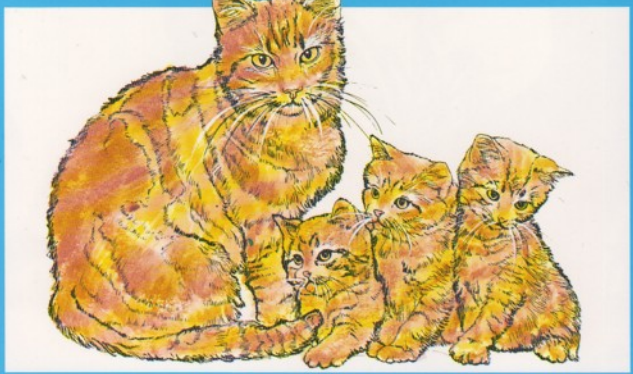
VISIT…

Dover Coloring Book

Fred

Karen Baldauski

The Cat Coloring Book



INTRODUCTION

The cat is an animal that has always been surrounded by legends and lore. From ancient times it has been a symbol of beauty and grace.

Cats have been on the earth about 20 million years and have been domesticated for about 5,000. They were deified by the ancient Egyptians. Bast or Pasht, the Egyptian goddess of the sun, moon, love and motherhood, was represented by the cat.

These animals protected the grain stores on the Nile and it was illegal to harm them. Mummified cats have been found in Egyptian tombs. People shaved their eyebrows as a symbol of mourning when the household cat died.

This reverence has been shown in other countries as well. In the Orient, cats were (and still are) considered good luck omens and healers of disease. In China and Japan they were valued for their protection of silkworm crops against rodents and insects.

On the darker side, cats were thought to be demons in Europe during the Middle Ages. Many cats were killed and people were arrested, tortured and even killed as witches for having a cat.

Felines have appeared in many of the world's mythologies—Freyya, the Norse goddess, drove a chariot pulled by two giant cats; Diana of the Greeks was often pictured with cats; there are many stories of Mohammed's cat in Arabian legends. The famous Cheshire cat, the black cat from Poe's tale and the Cat-in-the-Hat are just a few examples of the numerous stories and literary references made to cats. In music and art they have been lauded for centuries.

Cats love warmth; almost all cats in their natural habitats are found in warm climates. What cat will not curl up in front of a fireplace or near a radiator? The story that cats have nine lives is, of course, not true, but they often live to be 14 or 15 years old.

Although they are nocturnal, cats cannot see in total darkness. They have a special layer of cells on their retinas that reflect a great deal of light. This helps explain their extraordinary eyesight in very dim light. Cats also have extremely acute hearing, probably better than that of dogs. The 27 muscles in each ear let them move the ears in many directions to pick up slight sounds.

Everyone understands the metaphor of feline grace. Cats walk on their toes, not on the pads of their feet. They also have a very heavy muscle structure in proportion to their bodies that gives them a great deal of strength for their size.

Cats come in innumerable shapes, colors and sizes. For competition purposes, the Cat Fanciers Association has divided them into two main groups according to coat color and pattern.

The first group encompasses a wide range. Solid color cats are of a uniform color, such as black, cream, red or white, with no patches. Shaded cats are a solid color, often white, with a different color on the tips of the fur. The tips will usually be black or red. This tipped coloring is called ticking. Smoke cats have very dark ticking, so much so that the undercoat only shows when the cat moves. Tabbies have a light body color with bands and spots of a darker color. Their legs and tail are ringed with the darker color and they have an "M" on their foreheads. Parti-colors are the last type in this group. These include calicos, tortoiseshells and other cats with distinct color patches.

The second category consists of the colorpoint patterns. Cats with a light body color and contrasting point (mask, ears, feet and tail) colors are colorpoints. There are four basic colorpoints. Blue Points have white bodies with greyish-blue points. Chocolate Points have ivory bodies with chocolate brown points. Pale lilac-grey points against a white body are characteristic of the Lilac Point. The Seal Points have cream-colored bodies and seal-brown points. Though these are the main colorpoints, many other color combinations have been developed into separate breeds in the last several years.

These are the main classifications for color and pattern, but there are many other color combinations possible for cats. Most cat shows have a section for household cats or those that do not fit established breed requirements.

Different breeds of cats can be distinguished by their body type or conformation. There are three main cat conformations: Persian, oriental and Short-hair.

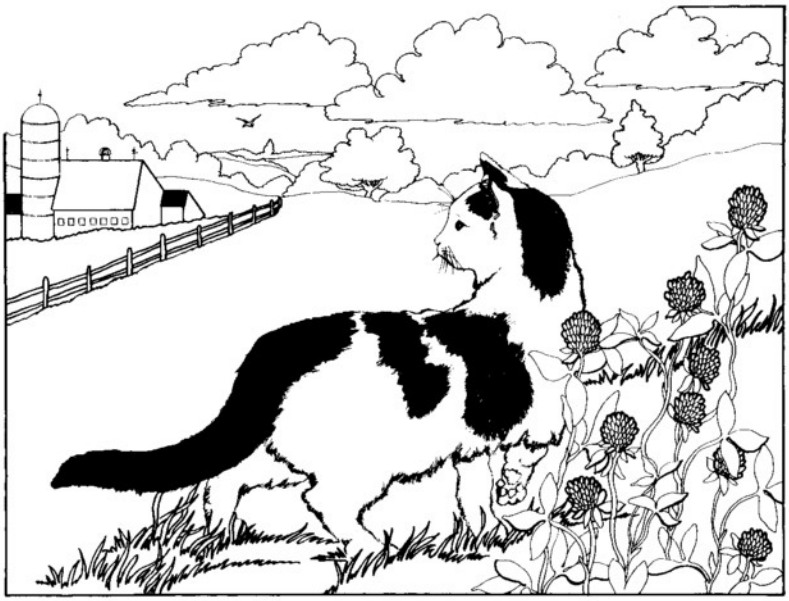
A cat with Persian conformation is one with a thick body, short thick legs and a medium length tail. The head is round with full cheeks and round eyes. Persian type cats all have long hair except the Exotic Short-hair.

Cats with oriental body features include the Siamese, Abyssinian, Havana Brown and many others. These cats have long, slender bodies and tails and long legs with delicate, oval-shaped feet. The head is wedge-shaped, the ears pointed and the eyes are almond-shaped and slanted. Most colorpoints have oriental conformation.

Short-hairs are strong, medium-sized cats. They are well muscled and have strong legs. The head is broad with round ears. The Short-hair conformation is the most common.

Cats are affectionate, intelligent and extremely independent. They are devoted animals but like freedom and mobility. More often than not a cat owns a person rather than vice versa.

The following pages are a gallery of cats. Forty of the more than 100 varieties of cats are represented here. From the undeniable appeal of a kitten to the sleek beauty of an adult, cats retain their special aura of mystery.



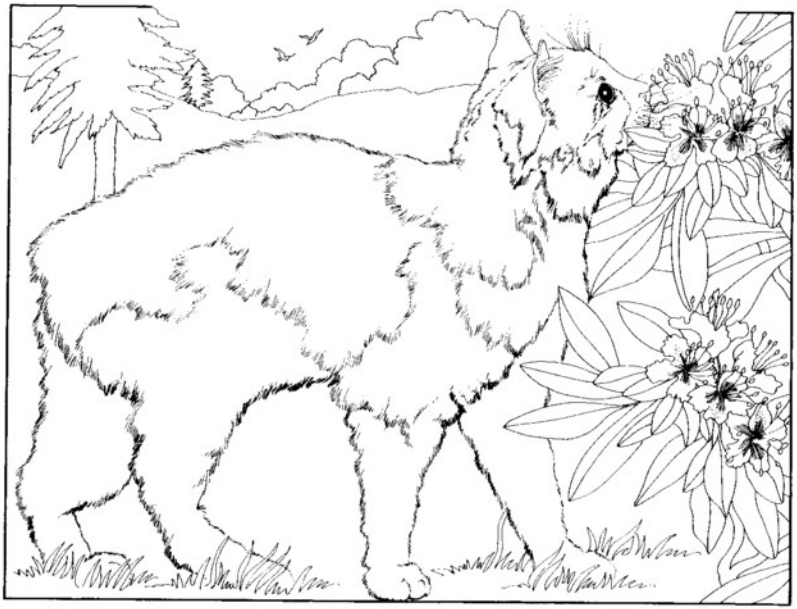
1. The first English settlers in America brought cats with them on their transatlantic voyages. The **American Short-hair** is the breed that originated from the British Domestic Short-hair variety that was brought over. Since they come in every color of the cat spectrum, American Short-hairs are distinguished by their conformation. They are strong, well-muscled cats with strong legs and a blunt tail. Their heads are large and round with wide set eyes and rounded ears. The Short-hair is very adaptable and personable in character.

2. The slender, short-haired **Abyssinian** is of mysterious origin. There are no cats in Abyssinia (present-day Ethiopia) that resemble it, and it is thought to be a descendant of the sacred cats of Egypt. It is oriental in conformation and features—slender legs, long tail, long, pointed head and oval eyes. Abyssinians differ in color, but most are reddish brown; these are sometimes called "bunny cats" due to their ticked coloring. The Abyssinian is a very intelligent cat with a soft, melodious voice. It likes plenty of freedom and makes a good pet.

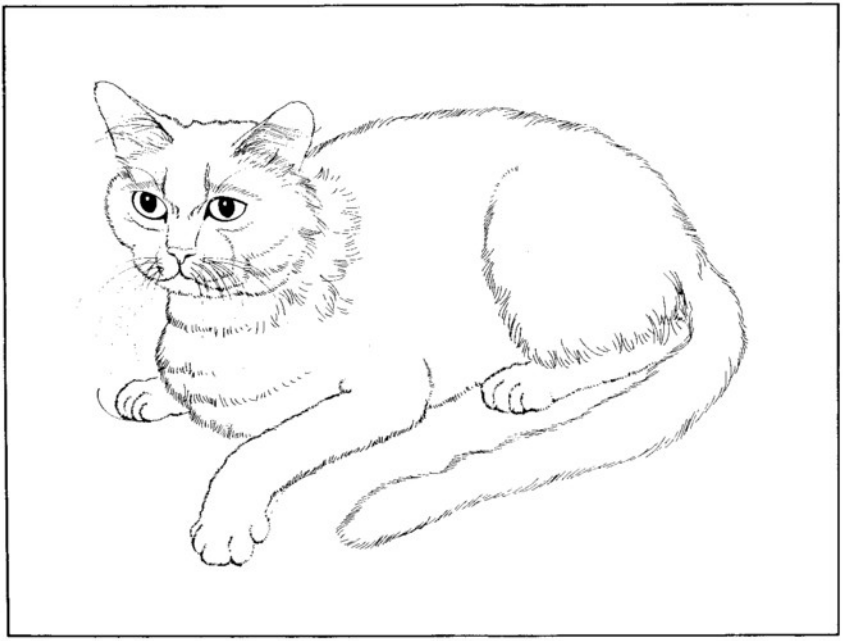
3. **British Domestic Short-hairs** are the forefathers of the American Short-hair breed. They tend to be smaller than their American cousins and have shorter legs and tail. Their heads are round with round eyes and their coats are short and soft. Like the American Short-hair they occur in all colors and patterns.

4. The **Tortoiseshell Long-hair** has a distinct coat of patches of black, red and cream. Their features are Persian —thick body and legs, round head, long, silky fur. Tortoiseshells, like Calicos, are hard to reproduce because they are almost always female.

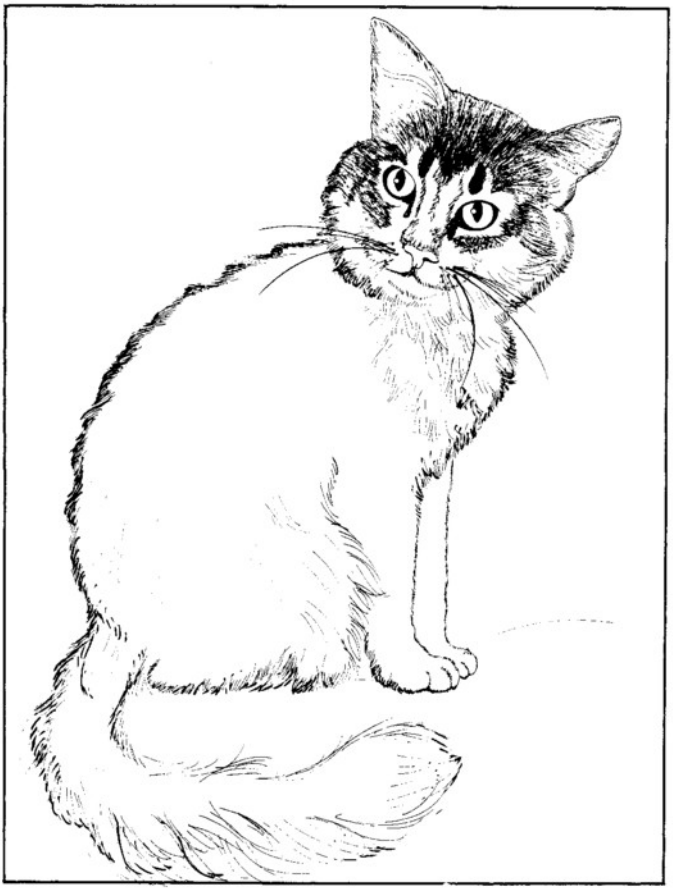
5. The **Tabby American Short-hair** has the same conformation as the American Short-hair. They are characterized by the tabby pattern and coloring of their coats—dark stripes and bands on a lighter background. Brown, red and silver are the most common colors, though there are also cream and blue tabbies. Tabby cats have an "M" marking on their foreheads. Legend has it that Mohammed touched the cat and left his mark on its head.



6. The tailless **Manx** has many legends surrounding its appearance. Some even say that Noah accidentally slammed the Ark door on it because the cat was so late getting on board. More likely, it seems to be a mutation from the Isle of Man. Manxes are categorized into three divisions: rumpies, with no tails at all; stumpies, with a little bit of a tail; and longies that do indeed have tails. They are muscular animals with round heads and thick soft fur. They are affectionate and intelligent.

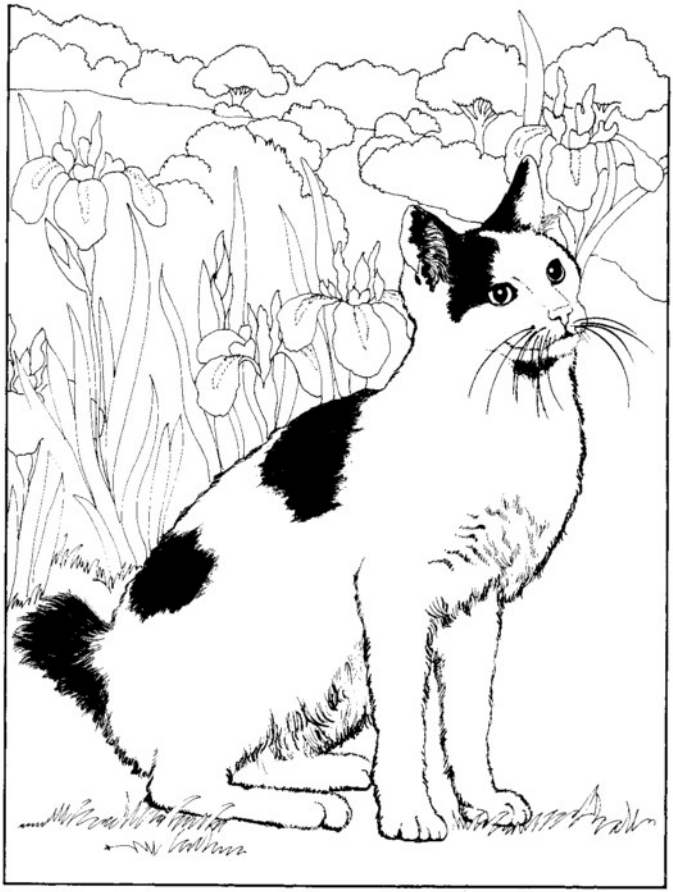


7. A Persian cat without long hair? The **Exotic Shorthair** was bred to get the conformation of the Persian without the long problem coat. Thus it has a large body, thick legs, small ears and a snub nose. The soft, silky coat is medium in length. It is found in all colors and patterns.

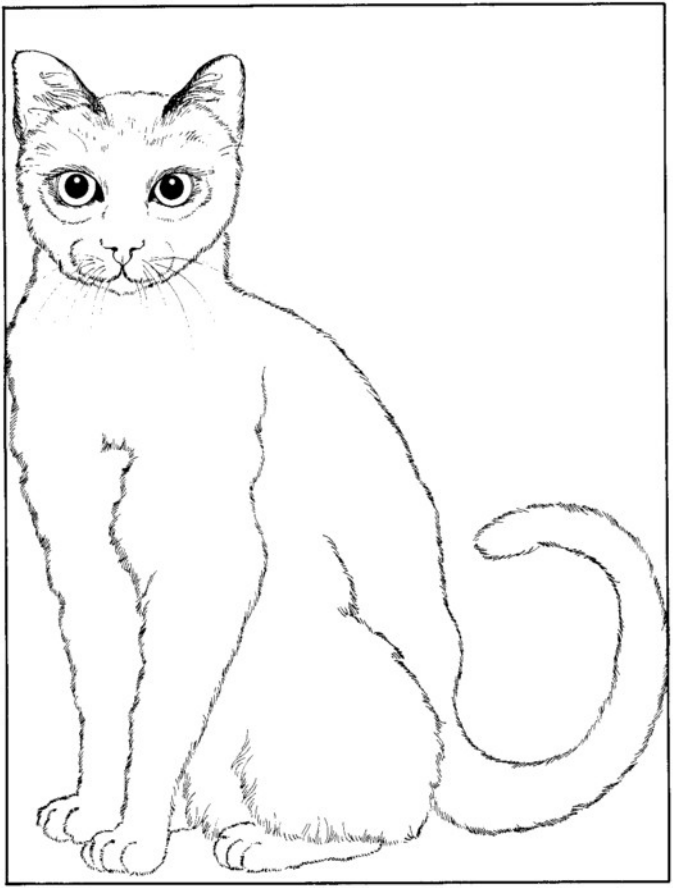


8. A **Somali** is a long-haired Abyssinian. Though a bit larger than the Abyssinian, they have the same red or ruddy color and the same conformation. They are extremely intelligent, quiet animals, affectionate as pets.

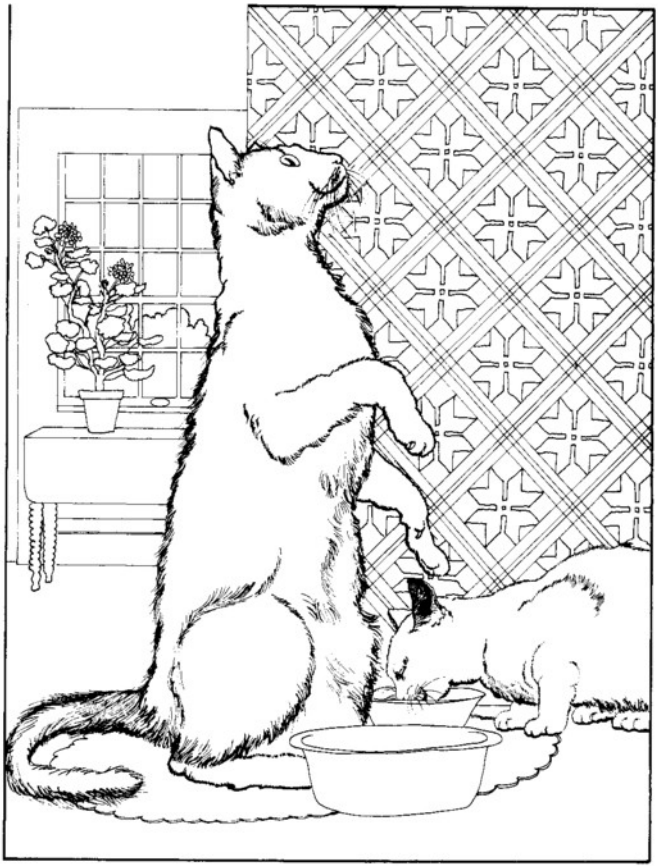
9. The Burmese breed was developed in the U.S. in the 1930's. It is a medium-sized cat with long legs and tail and a round head. The **Blue Burmese** has bluish-grey fur and yellow eyes. Kittens are born tabbies and the markings fade as they get older.



10. Cats are a good luck omen in the Eastern countries. The **Japanese Bobtail** is a slim medium-sized cat native to Japan. It is distinguished by a tail about four inches long, with hair silkier and longer than the rest of the medium length coat. The cat has a triangular face, wide-set ears and large, slightly slanted eyes. They come in a variety of colors but traditionally are a combination of black, reddish orange and white.

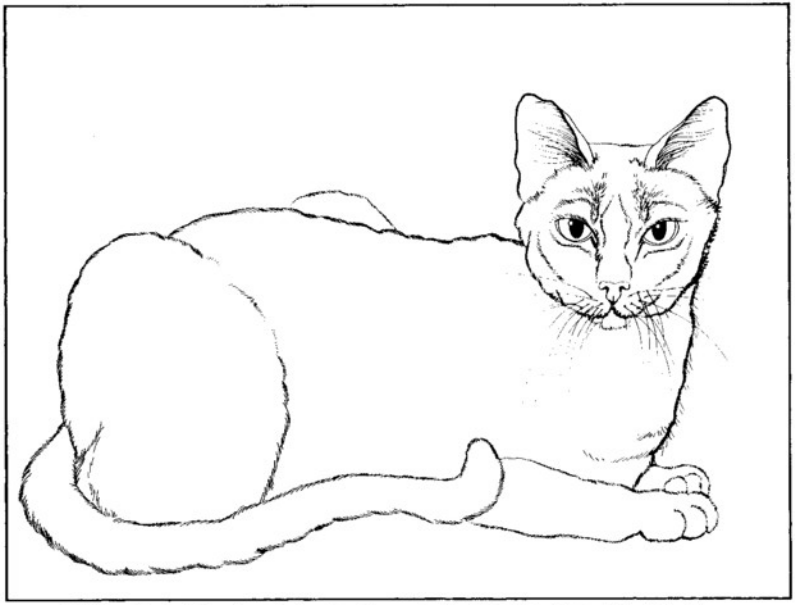


11. Often called the cat with the patent leather coat, the **Bombay** is a relatively new breed. It is a cross between an American Short-hair and a Burmese. This cat is black with very fine short hair that gives it a silken look. The body is medium size, the head round with wide-set eyes and ears.

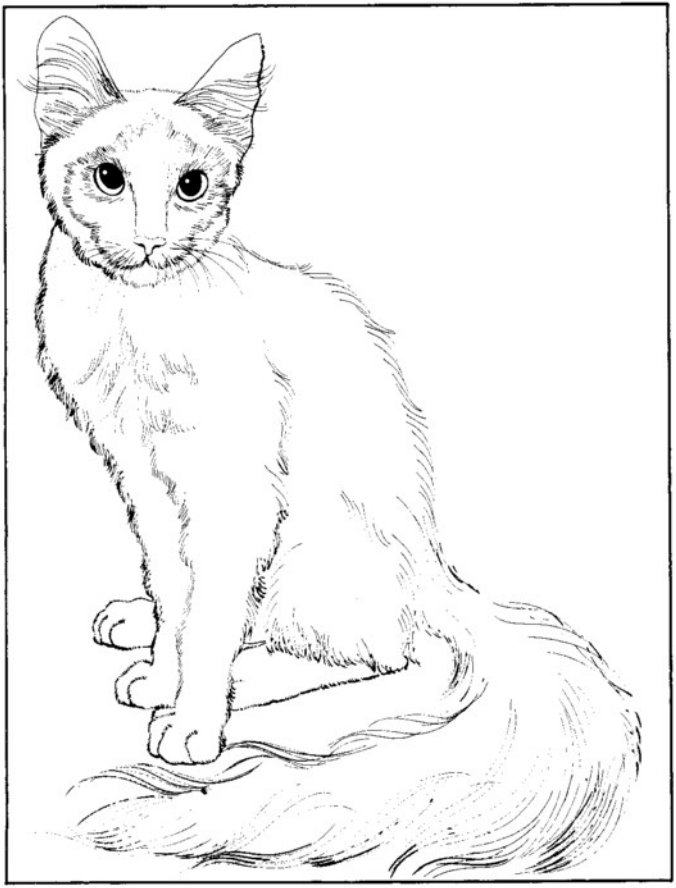


16. Black cats have long held a strong place, both good and bad, in the superstitions of many countries. Often thought to be witches or the devil's disciples, many black cats (and other colored cats as well) were killed in Europe in the Middle Ages. In Britain, they are considered good luck omens; in Japan they are thought to cure disease. The **Black American Short-hair** has the Short-hair conformation, a coal black coat and copper-colored eyes.

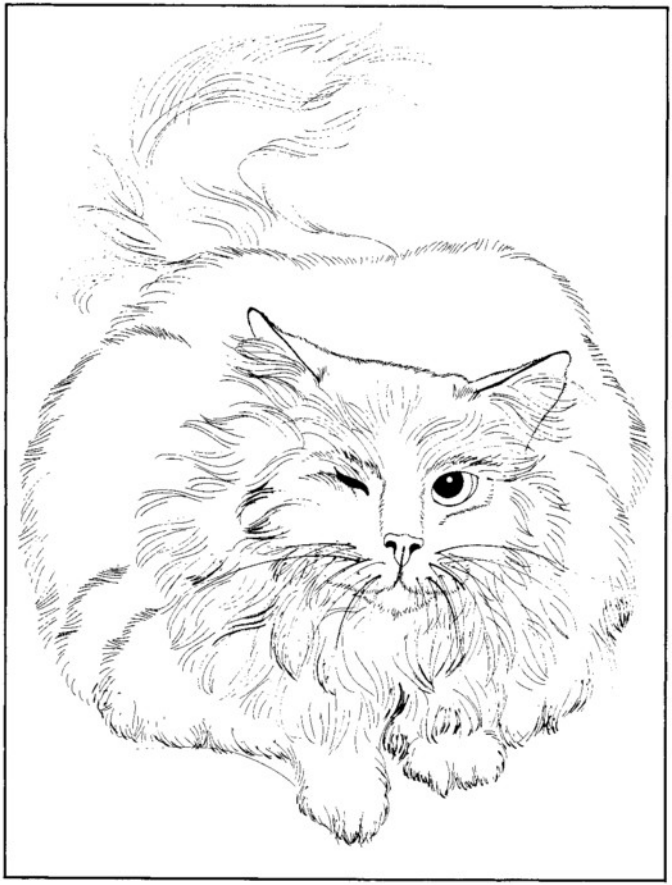
12. **The Scottish Fold** is a mutation with distinctive dropped ears. The cat first appeared in Scotland in 1961. It has a short, sturdy body and short, thick fur.



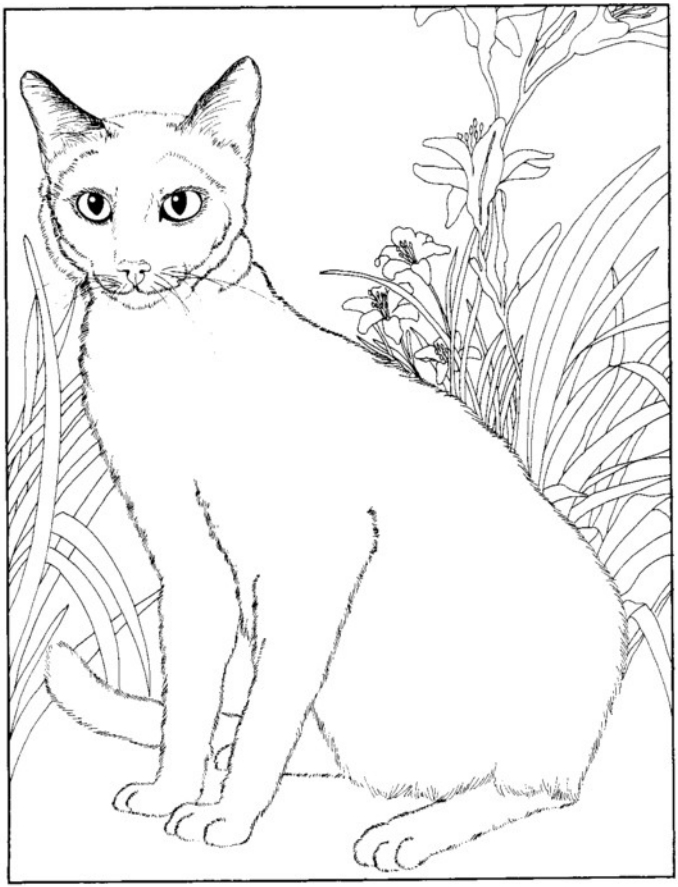
13. Colorpoint refers to the color and pattern of a cat's coat—a basic body color with contrasting points (ears, feet, tail and mask). The **Colorpoint Short-hair** is a cross between a Siamese and an American Short-hair which results in a cat with oriental features and point colors other than the traditional Seal and Blue Points. Many new breeds have been developed—red point, lynx point, tabby point, solid color point. Colorpoints are less high-strung than most purebred Siamese and make good pets.



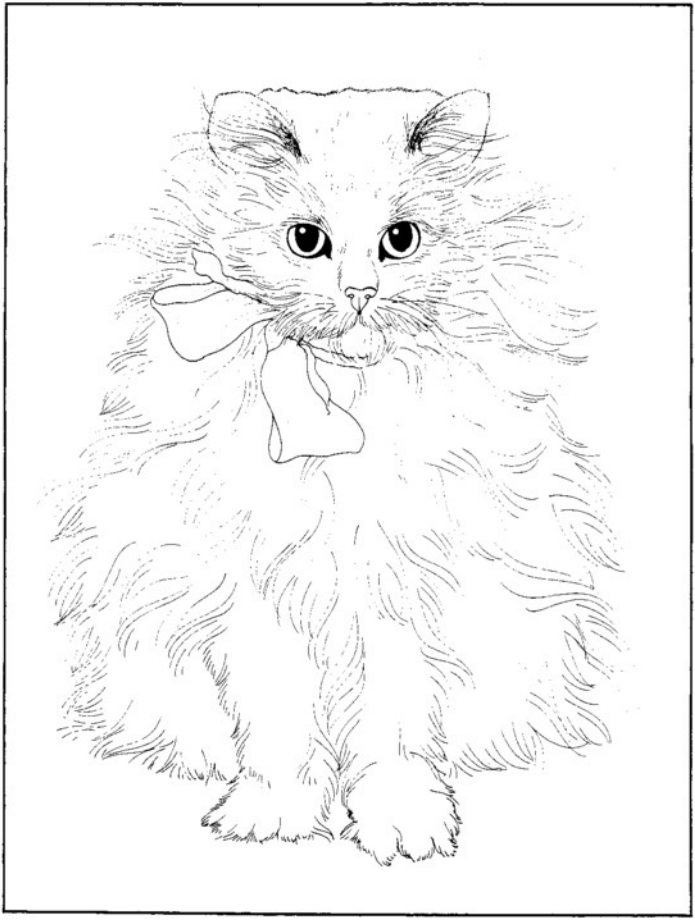
17. The **Balinese** is a long-haired, pure-bred Siamese. The mutation first appeared in the U. S. in 1954 and is now considered a separate breed. Its conformation is that of a Siamese with hair about 2 inches long, but it does not have the ruff that most long-haired cats have. The Balinese is an intelligent, affectionate cat, very similar in character to the Siamese.



14. An interesting breed that deserves its name is the **Ragdoll**. They are so relaxed and fearless they go limp when picked up. They are extremely liable to injury because of this characteristic and should be attentively cared for. Ragdolls look very much like Birmans—long-haired with seal or lilac points and white feet.

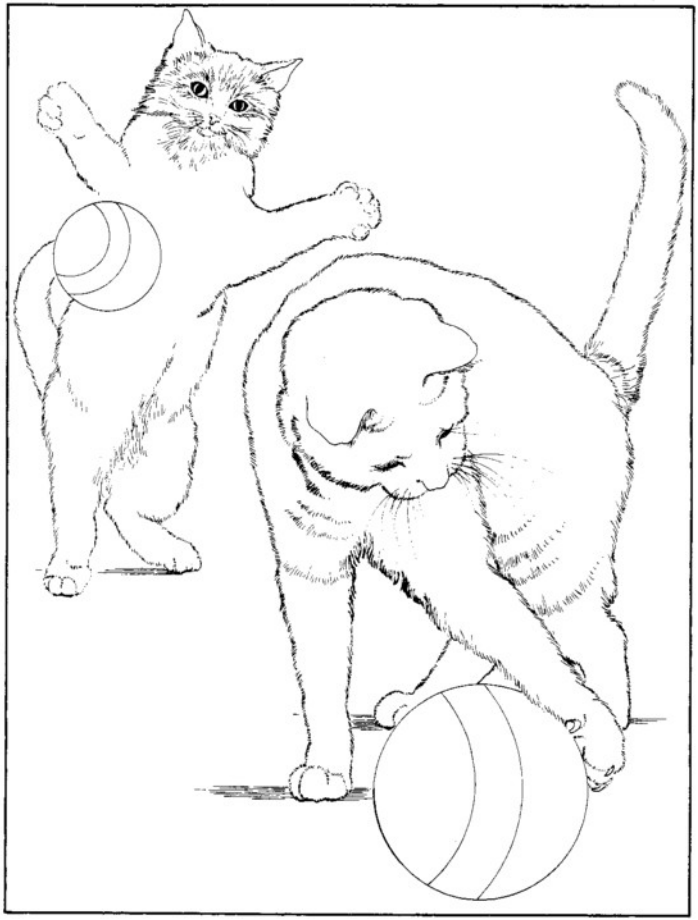


15. Though said to have been brought to the west from Archangel (Russia), the origin of the **Russian Blue** is not known. This is a long, graceful cat with a wedge-shaped head. The color of the thick, short fur is greyish-blue. They are very gentle, quiet animals.

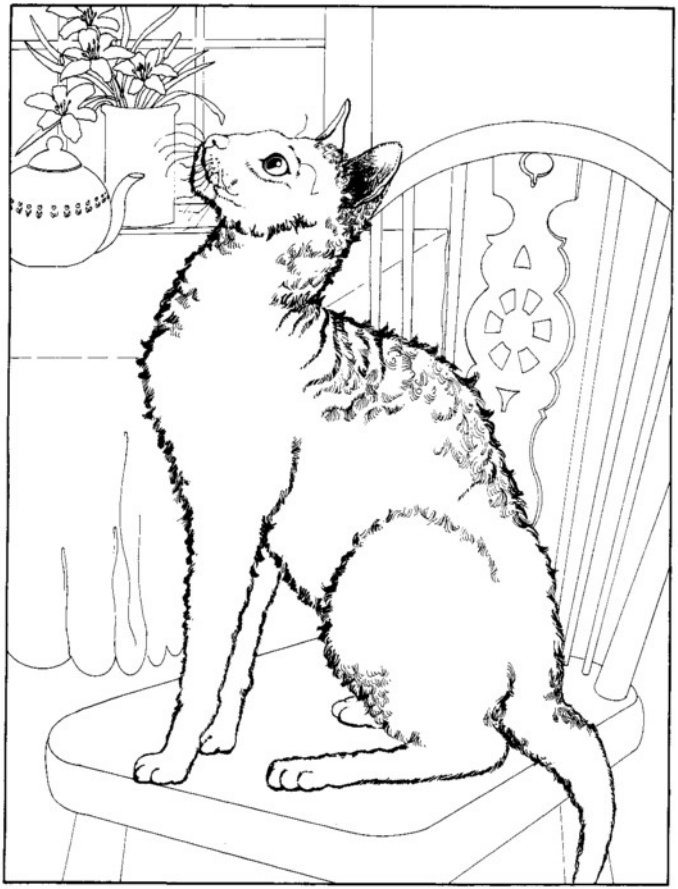


18. Persian Kitten

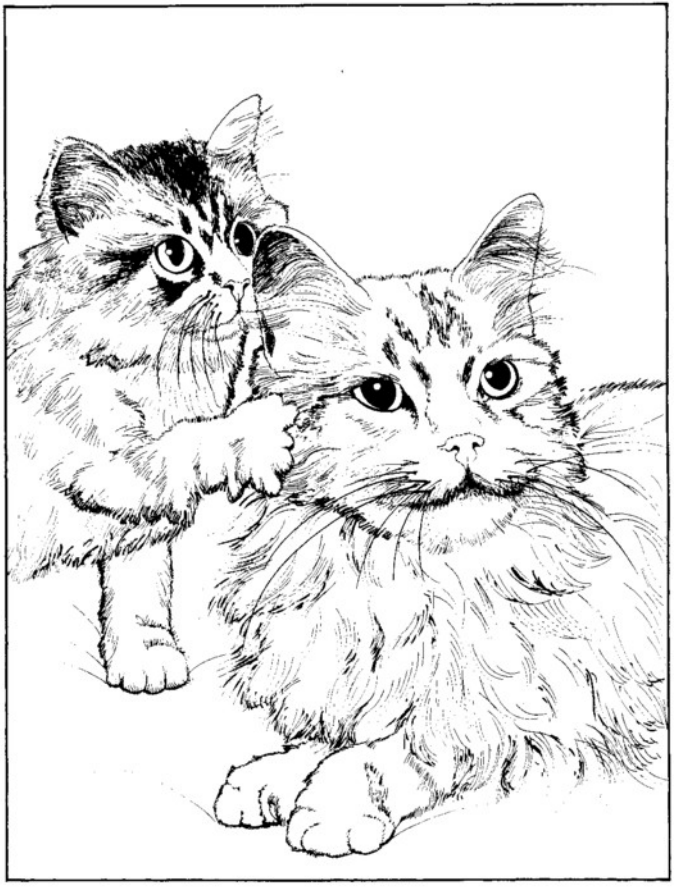
19. The **Chartreux** is a short-haired bluish-grey cat from France. It is thought to have originally been brought from South Africa. They are very gentle-natured, intelligent cats.



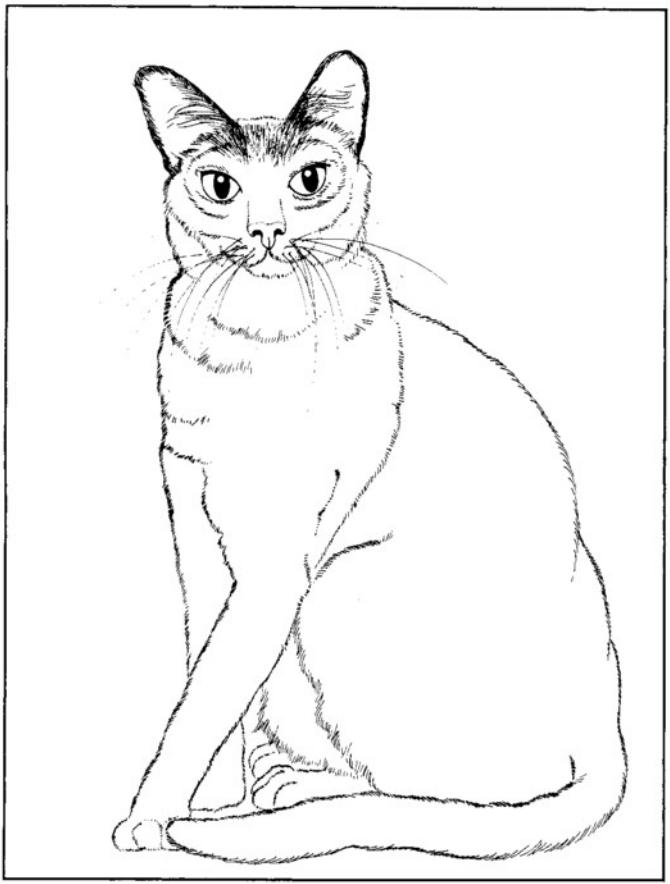
20. **Kittens**



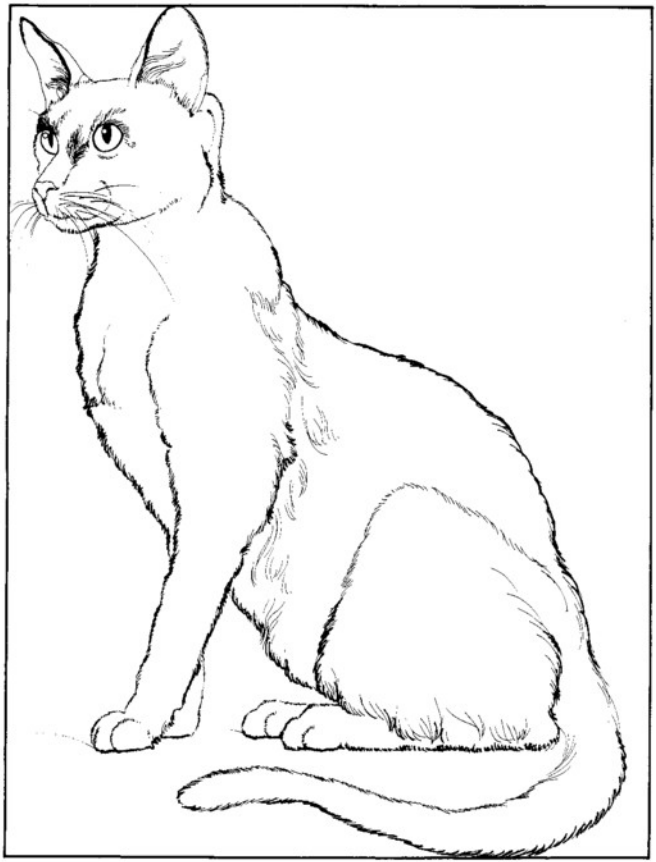
21. The **Cornish Rex** is a mutation first discovered on a farm in Cornwall, England in 1950. It has slender features, oriental in conformation. The ears are large and wide, the eyes oval. Its coat is short and tightly curled (even the whiskers are curled). It occurs in all colors and patterns including colorpoint.



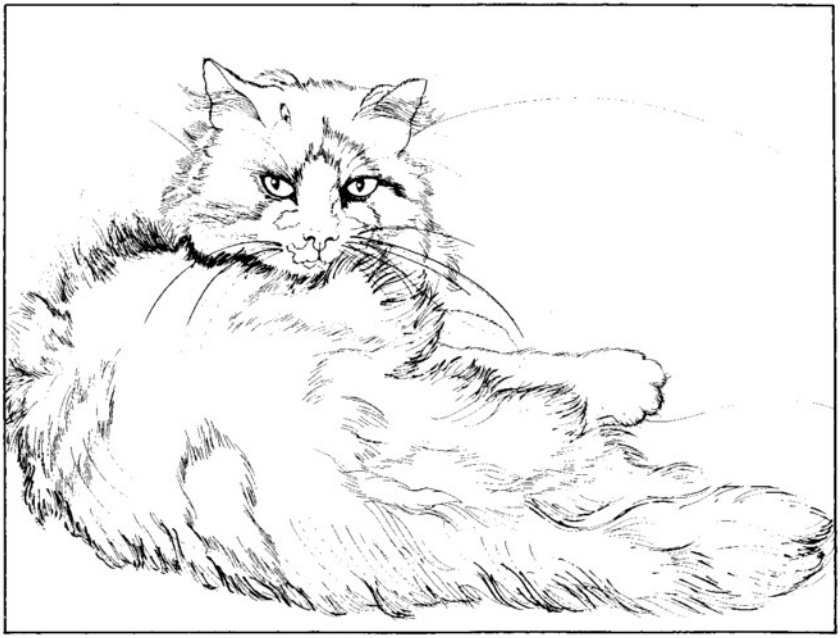
22. The **Long-haired Silver Tabby** has black tabby markings on a silver background. Its conformation is that of a Persian. This is a very difficult breed to produce and is losing its popularity.



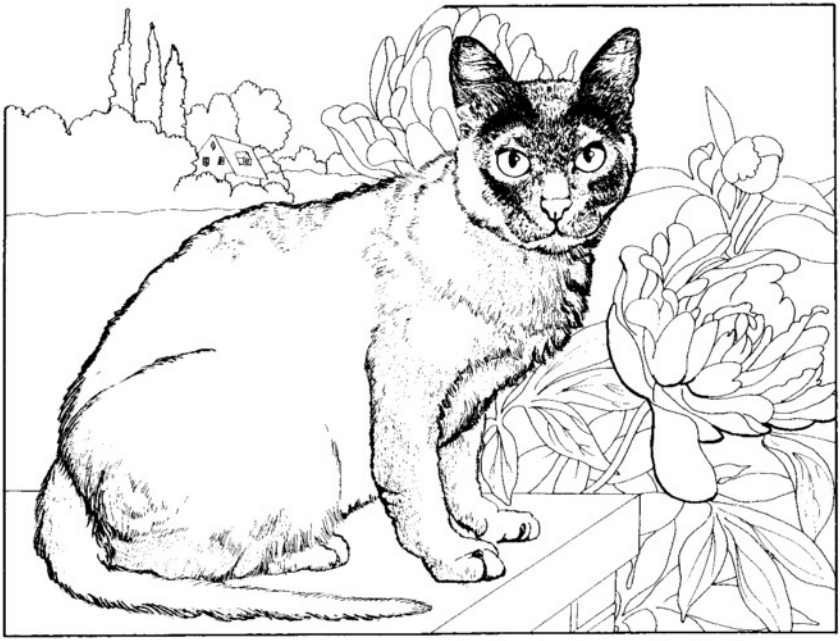
27. A cross between a Burmese and a Siamese, the **Tonkinese** is not yet recognized as a distinct breed.



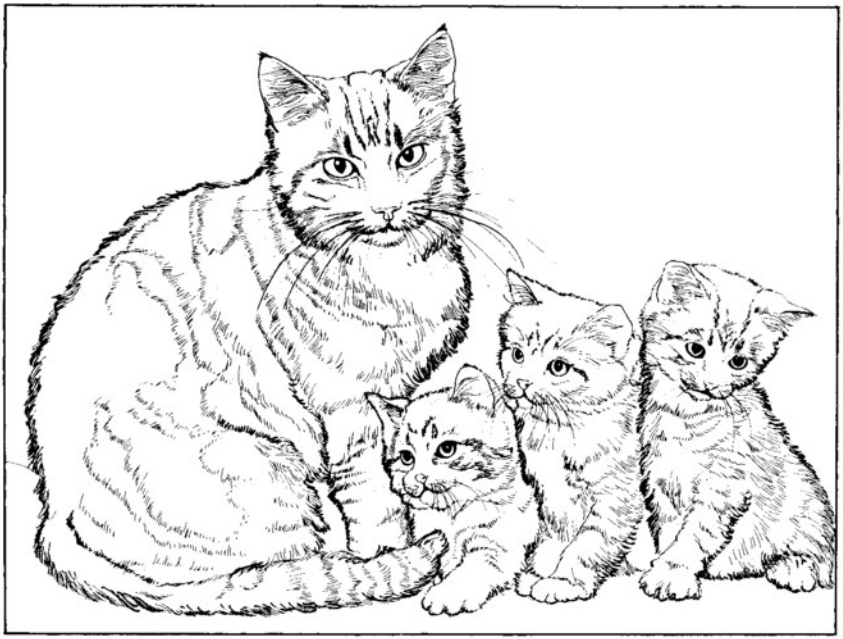
23. The **Havana Brown** (also called Chestnut Foreign Brown or Havana Foreign in Britain) is one of the rarest breeds in the world. It was developed in England in 1958. The cat has short hair of a rich mahogany color similar to that of a Havana cigar, hence its name. It is graceful, oriental in physique, with chartreuse eyes. The Havana Brown is affectionate and unlike most other cats that rely on their sense of smell, it often touches objects with its paw to investigate them.



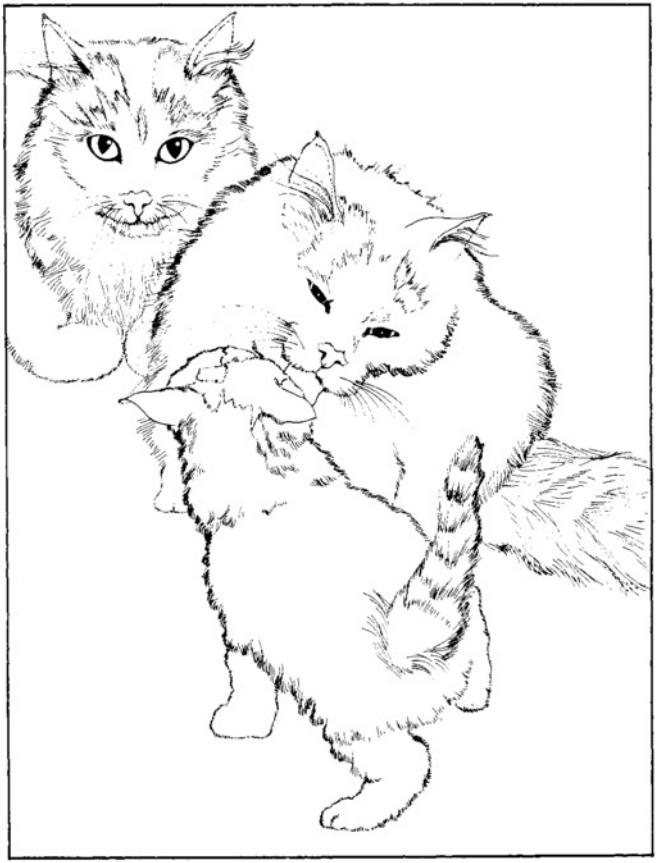
24. The **Long-haired Calico** has Persian body features. The coat is well-defined black and red patches on a white underpart. The eyes are orange or copper. Calicos are hard to breed since they are almost invariably female.



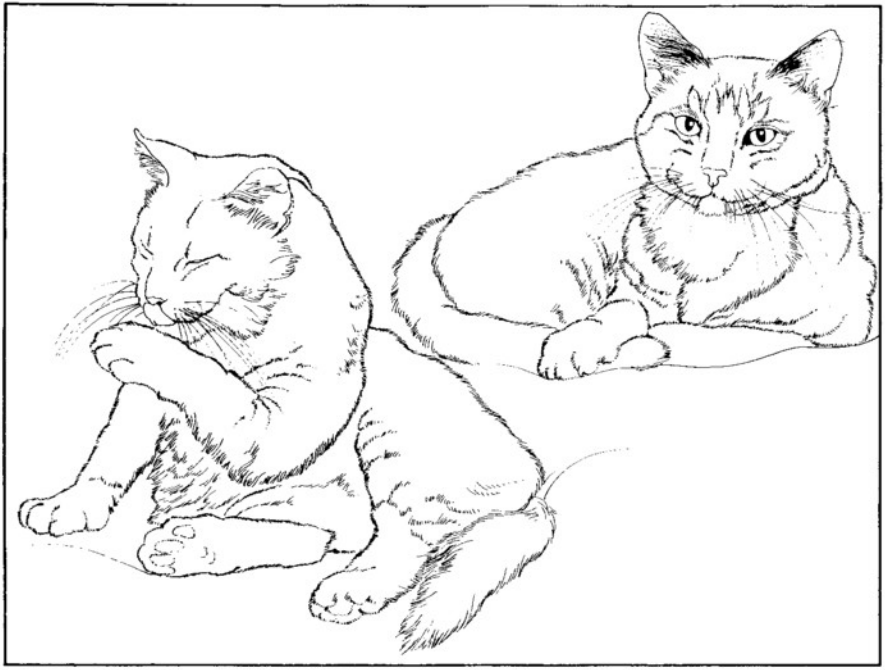
28. A rare, ancient breed of cat is the **Korat** of Thailand. Blue with silver-tipped fur, many of these cats have a lineage that can be traced back to their Thai origin. According to Thai tradition, these cats could not be bought but had to be given as gifts. They are of medium size with heart-shaped faces and green, slanted eyes.



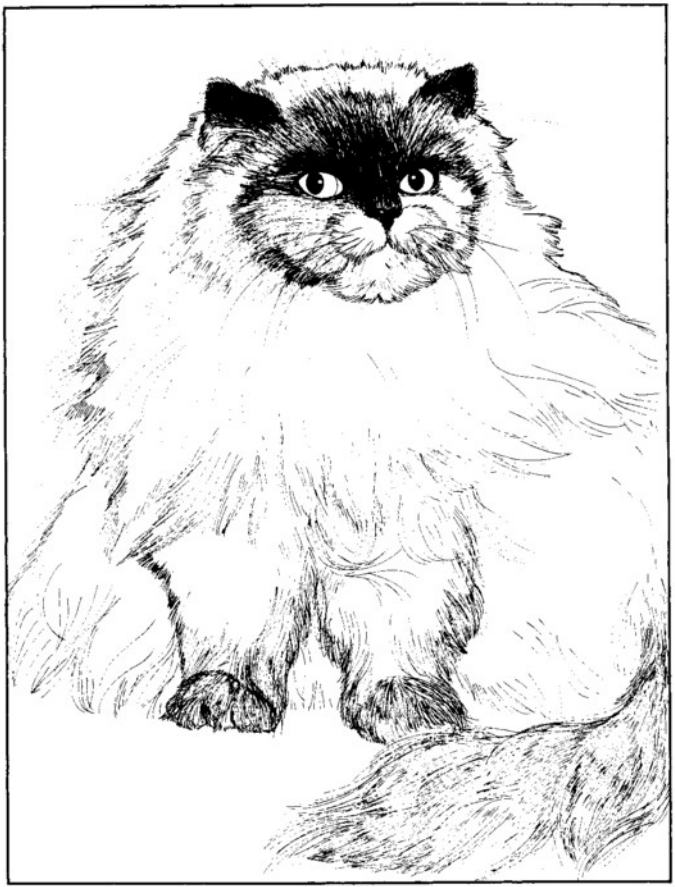
25. A **Marmalade Short-hair** is not a distinct breed, but refers to a short-haired cat with red or orange tabby markings on a beige background.



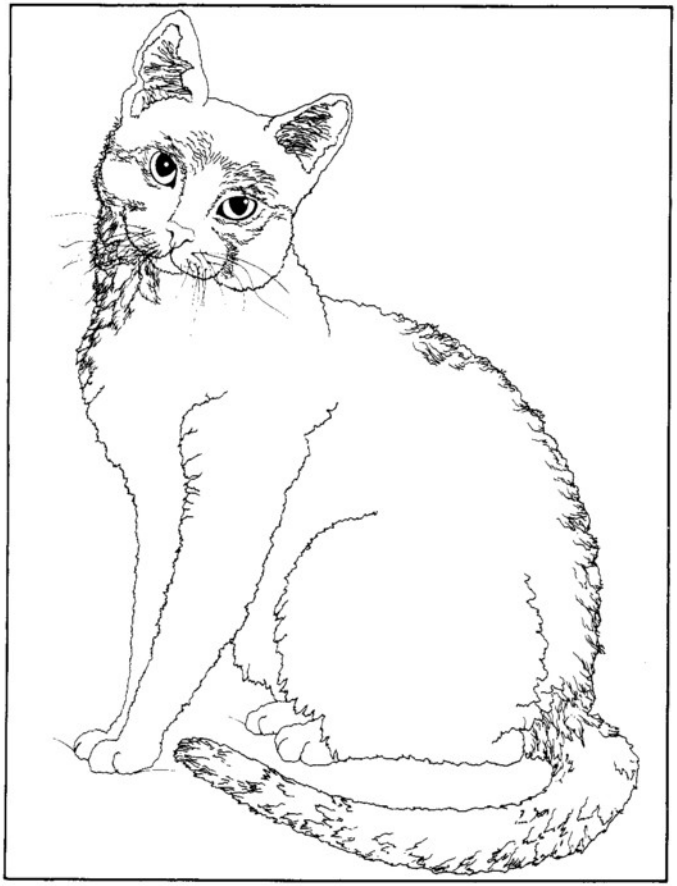
26. Contrary to the popular myth that all cats hate water, the **Turkish Van Cat** loves to swim and have baths. The long-haired cat is white with auburn marks on the face and tail. Its coat is long and silky. Its long, well-muscled body is similar to that of the Angora and its head is wedge-shaped with large rounded ears and round eyes. This breed is becoming more popular but is still rare outside of Turkey.



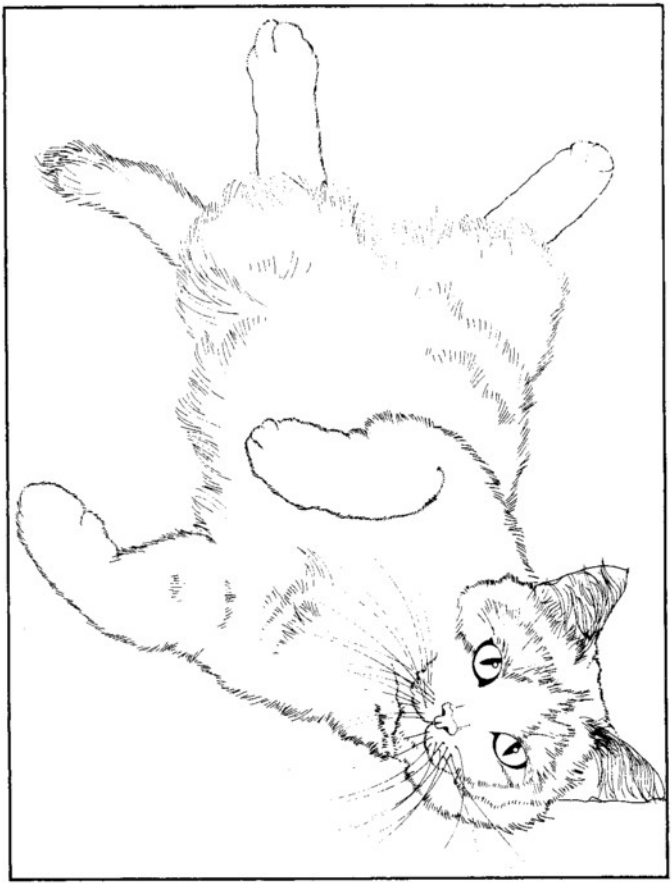
29. Tomcats



30. The **Himalayan** (Colourpoint Long-hair in Britain) is a colorpoint Persian. The round head, short thick legs and stout body reflect Persian conformation but the colors follow the Siamese colorpoint patterns. They all have blue eyes. This is a **Seal Point Himalayan**.



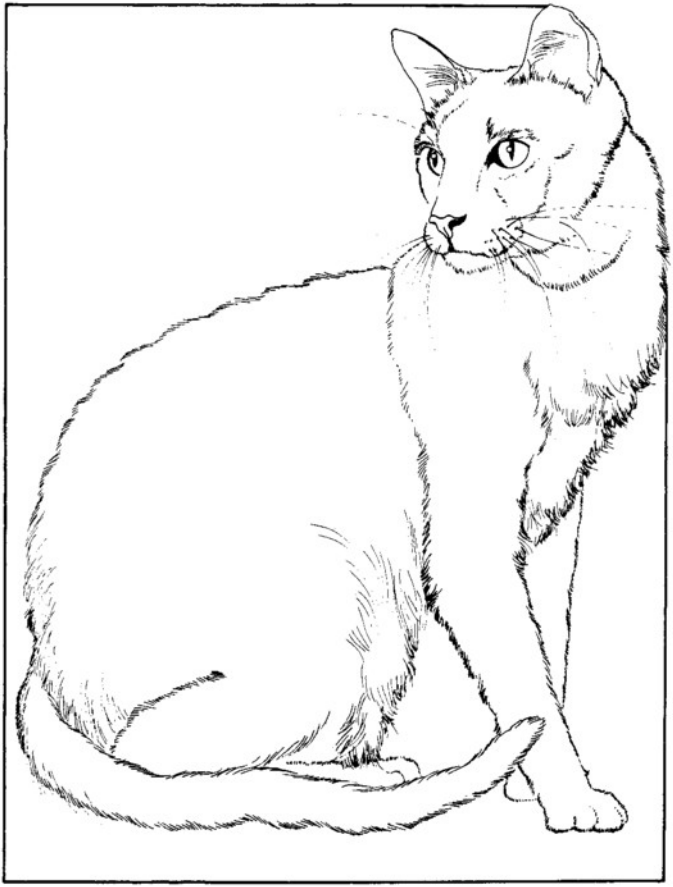
31. In 1968, a mutation appeared that has coarse, thick, curly hair. This is the **American Wirehair**. It has the conformation of an American Short-hair and comes in all colors and patterns other than colorpoint.



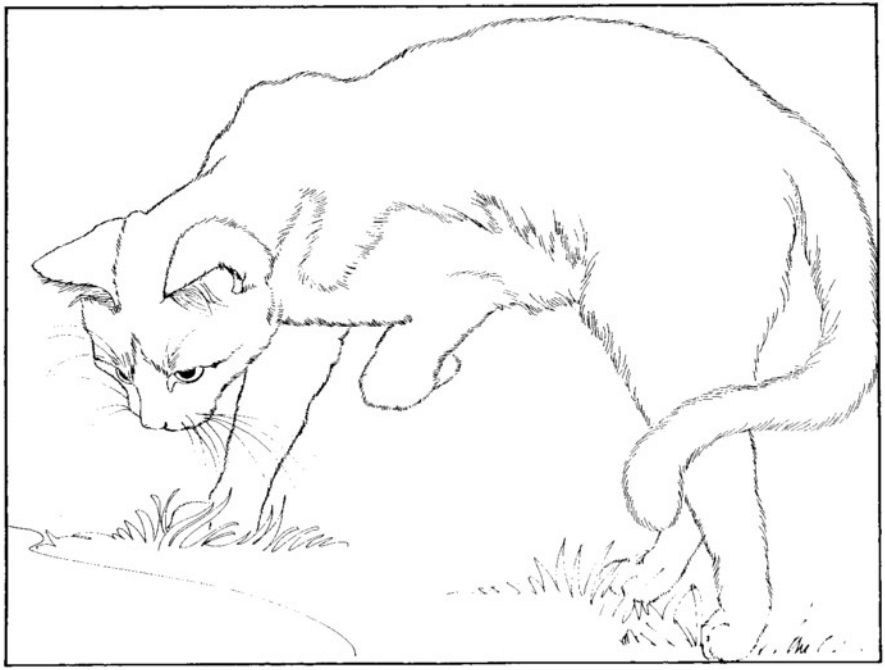
36. Ginger and White Short-hair

32. The **Sphynx** is a breed developed in the sixties that has no hair or whiskers. The mutation first appeared in Canada and is called a Moon Cat or Canadian Hairless. It has oriental features: wedge-shaped face, slim body, long tail and slanted eyes. It occurs in all colors and does have very short downy fur on its face, ears, paws and end of tail. The breed is small in number as interest in it is not great.

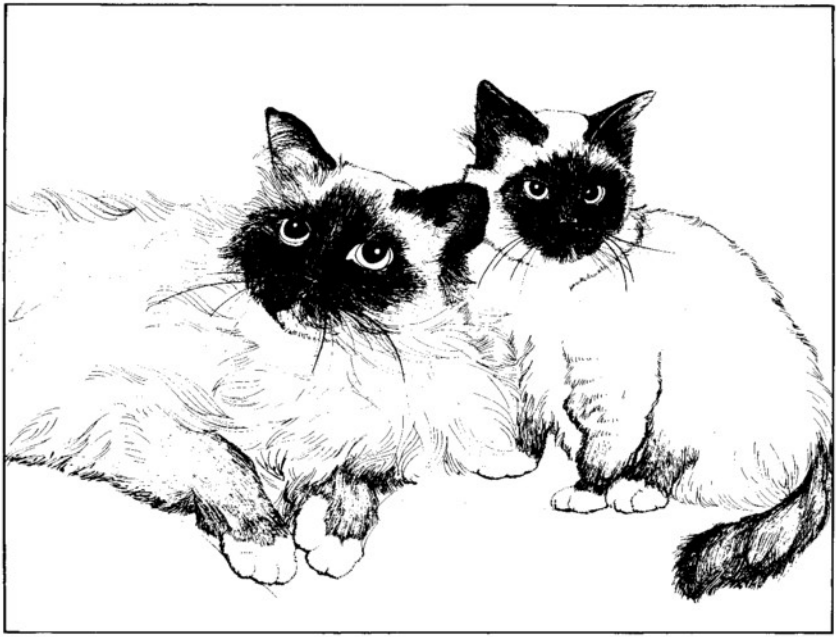
33. The build of the **Shaded Cameo Persian** is the same as other Persian varieties. The coat is white, tipped with red. The face, feet and tail are darker in tone.



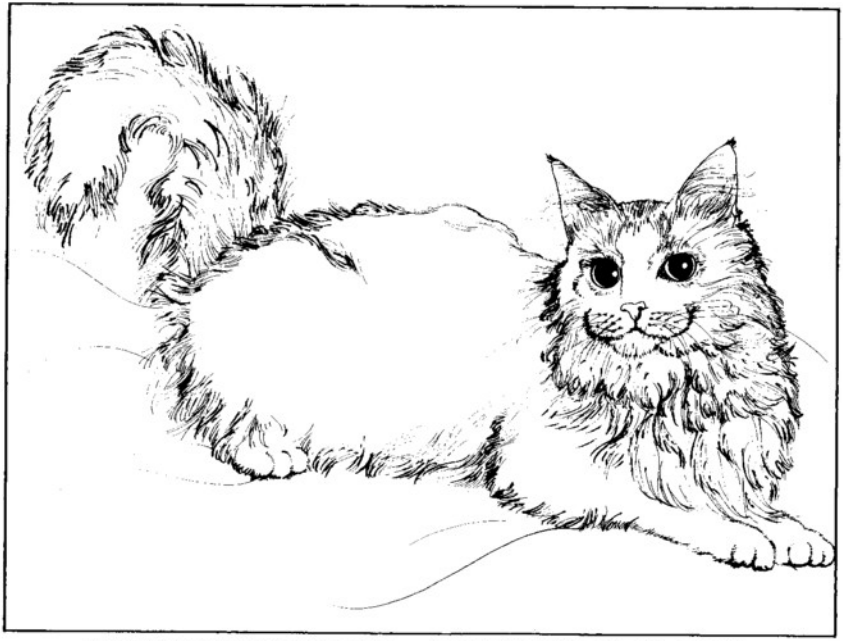
37. The **Oriental Short-hair** (known as the Foreign Short-hair in Britain) has been specially bred to produce a cat with oriental conformation but without the color-point pattern. It retains the delicate oriental features: wedge-shaped face, pointed ears, long legs and long, pointed tail. Coloring and coat patterns are numerous.



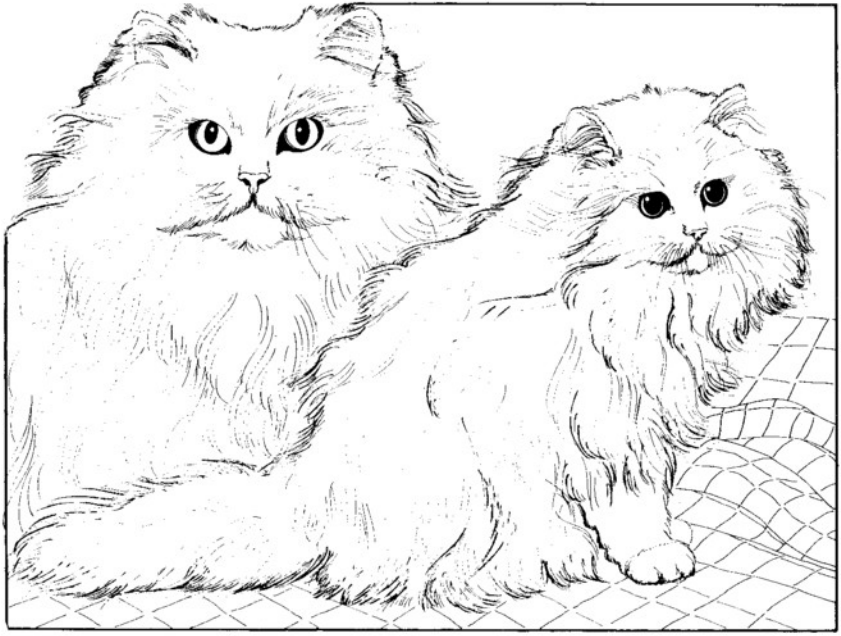
34. Short-hair



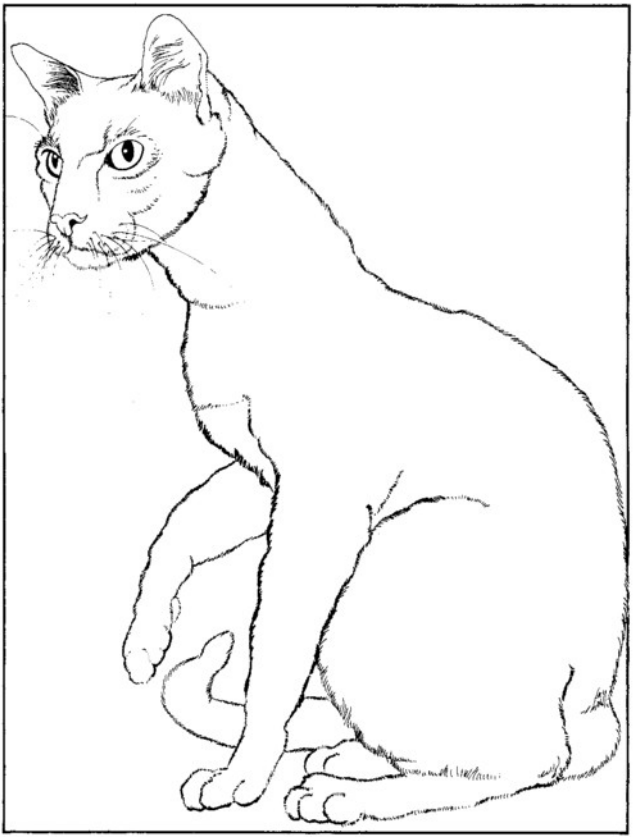
35. The **Birman** is a long-haired colorpoint except that its feet are characteristically white. It has a long body, heavy legs and a wide face. Its round eyes are blue. The silky fur does not mat. The Birman is the sacred cat of Burma that (according to legend) carries the souls of priests to heaven.



38. Native to New England, **the Maine Coon Cat** is an extremely large cat whose origin is unknown. Legend has it the cat is part raccoon, hence its name. It has a large muscular body (often reaching 30 lbs.) with tufted paws. Their large ears have tufted tips like those of a lynx. They have soft shaggy fur and occur in all colors.

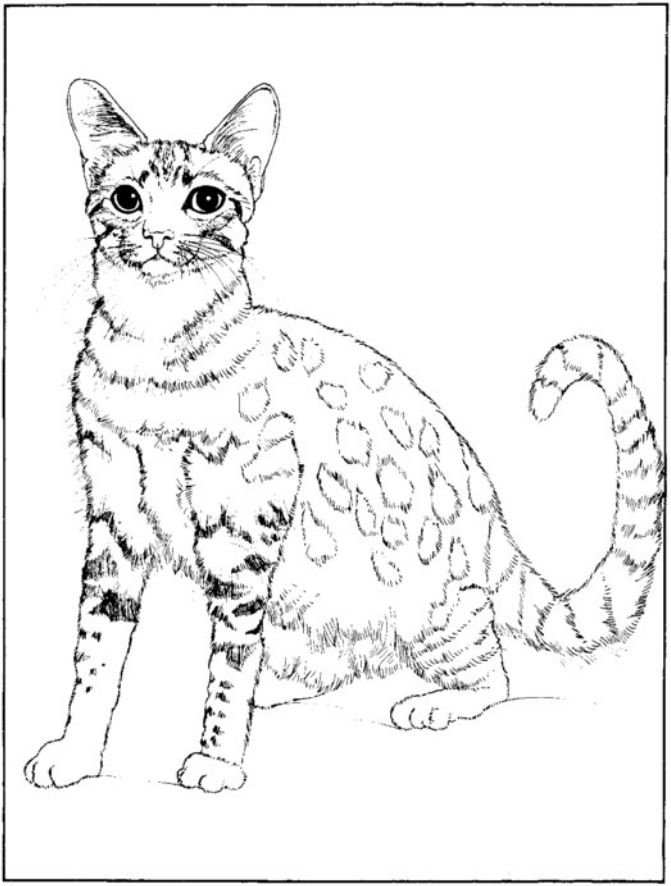


39. Slightly more delicate than the Persian, the **Chinchilla Persian** has short legs and tail, a thick body and a round head. Their white coats are tipped with black and the eyes are emerald or blue green. They are very affectionate and are good travelers.



40. Perhaps the most regal and certainly the most popular breed of cat is the **Siamese**. The legends surrounding these cats are many. They were said to be palace guards for the kings of Siam. Princesses were thought to have kept their rings on the cats' tails, giving them the kink at the end. They are sleek, slender animals with long legs and wedge-shaped heads. The slanting eyes are almost always blue. Siamese are the original colorpoints. Their masks, feet, ears and tails are a darker color than their body. Siamese are extremely affectionate and intelligent cats, often wanting a great amount of attention. They are instrumental in starting many new breeds.

41. The **Oriental White** or Foreign White (as it is known in Britain) is an all-white cat with no point coloration. It has oriental features and deep blue eyes. It is one of the few all white, blue-eyed cats that are not deaf.



42. The rare **Egyptian Mau** is thought to be related to the ancient Egyptian cats. It is a spotted cat with an oriental build—slender, well-muscled medium-sized body with long legs and round paws. Its head is rounded with large pointed ears and almond-shaped eyes. The fur is ticked, almost seeming to have a tabby pattern.

43. The **Angora** is a long-haired cat from Turkey. It is named after the capital city of that country. This is a small cat with a round head and large almond-shaped eyes. The Angora faced extinction until a breeding program was established in the 1960's to protect this breed of cat.

44. Catnap